

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/758,692

Examiner

Mark Consilvio

Applicant(s)

SHODA ET AL.

Art Unit

2872

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to election filed 12/28/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3,7 and 8.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

LEONIDAS BOUTSIKARIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER



DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in the reply filed on 12/28/2006 is acknowledged.

Claims 11-16 and 22-24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Status of Claims

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, and 11-22 were previously rejected and claims are newly amended. Claims 23 and 24 were added. Claims 11-16 and 22-24 are withdrawn. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11-16 and 22-24 are currently pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pp. 7-9, filed 12/28/2006, with respect to claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 11-16 and 22-24 directed to invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 11-16 and 22-24 been cancelled.

Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 are allowed (and have been renumbered 1-4).

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With respect to claim 3, though the prior art discloses an optical isolator element comprising: at least one flat Faraday rotator, and at least two flat polarizers, wherein the Faraday rotator and the polarizers are bonded to each other by van der Waals forces acting between bonding surfaces thereof, and a magnetic element arranged around the optical isolator element, wherein the magnetic element is tubular and the optical isolator element is arranged inside the tubular magnetic element wherein the bonding surfaces of at least either one of the Faraday rotator and the polarizers are integrally provided with films wherein the films may be made of a material such as aluminum oxide, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest the aforementioned combination wherein the films are made of a soft material which is softer than a dielectric hard material and the soft material is selected from the group consisting of Au, Al, Ag, Cu, Sn, and Ga. It is noted that though films of such materials are known in the art, the prior art does not suggest integrally provided such films with the bonding surfaces without destroying the van der Waals forces acting between bonding surfaces.

With respect to claims 2, 7, and 8, these claims depend on claim 3 and are allowable at least for the reasons stated supra.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

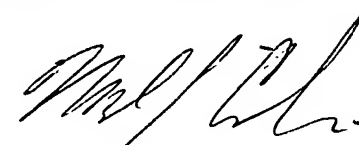
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Consilvio whose telephone number is (571) 272-2453. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday, 8:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephone B. Allen can be reached on (571) 272-2434. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LEONIDAS BOUTSIKARIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER



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